

a<sup>1</sup> 6. **(Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein cross-linking is catalyzed by a catalyst selected from the group consisting of polyhistidine, Gly-Gly-His and metalloporphyrin.

9. **(Amended)** An isolated protein cross-linked by the method of claim 1.

a<sup>2</sup> 10. **(Amended)** An isolated protein comprising at least one di-tyrosine cross-link introduced by genetic engineering, which protein retains at least one function displayed by the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking.

a<sup>3</sup> 19. **(Amended)** The method of claim 18, wherein the cross-link reaction occurs in the presence of an oxidant selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, oxone, magnesium monoperoxyphthalic acid hexahydrate (MMPP), a photogenerated oxidant, and ammonium persulfate.

21. **(New)** A protein cross-linked by the method of claim 1, wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme and an antibody.

a<sup>4</sup> 22. **(New)** A protein comprising at least one di-tyrosine cross-link, which protein retains at least one function displayed by the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking, wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme and an antibody.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 6, 9, 10 and 19 have been amended and new claims 21 and 22 have been added hereinabove to clarify that which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-22 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Support for the amended and new claims may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, claims 6 and 19 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to recite an "isolated" protein and claim 10 has